

MAN TO WIPE OUT ENGLISH SPARROW

League of American Sportsmen Urges Nation-Wide Campaign to Save Songbirds.

The League of American Sportsmen, whose object is the preservation of wild life, is considering the question of inaugurating a nation-wide campaign for the destruction of the English sparrow. Its officers say this bird has made such headway that it is driving out the smaller song and insectivorous birds, and that it has become a question of whether we shall have only the English sparrow to represent our bird life or destroy it and regain some 50 species of useful and beautiful birds that used to inhabit cities, farms and countryside all over the land.

The league intends to ask the Governor of each state to issue a proclamation declaring war on the English sparrow and setting aside a week, possibly in April or May of next year, to be devoted especially to destroying nests of this pernicious pest. Printed instructions as to the plan of the campaign will be sent to the Mayors of all incorporated cities and villages, to the heads of the school systems in every county, to college Presidents, to the heads of the Boy Scouts in each state, and to other organizations which might be expected to extend sympathy and aid.

Four principal methods of action will be employed: Tearing down the nests, trapping the birds, shooting them under police supervision and under licenses issued by the police authorities, and, in cities where water pressure is available, turning the hose on the birds at night after they have gone to roost.

The President of the league, Col. O. Shields, of 1110 Simpson Street, New York, says he would like to hear from persons interested in the matter, with those who favor the plan and those who oppose it.

He makes the statement that in the case of the hundreds of thousands of bird boxes placed in this country in the last 10 years, fully 75 per cent. have been appropriated by English sparrows. In cases where bluebirds, robins or other birds that are desired by those who put up the boxes have taken possession of boxes, the sparrows have driven them out, thrown their eggs or young to the ground, and taken possession themselves.

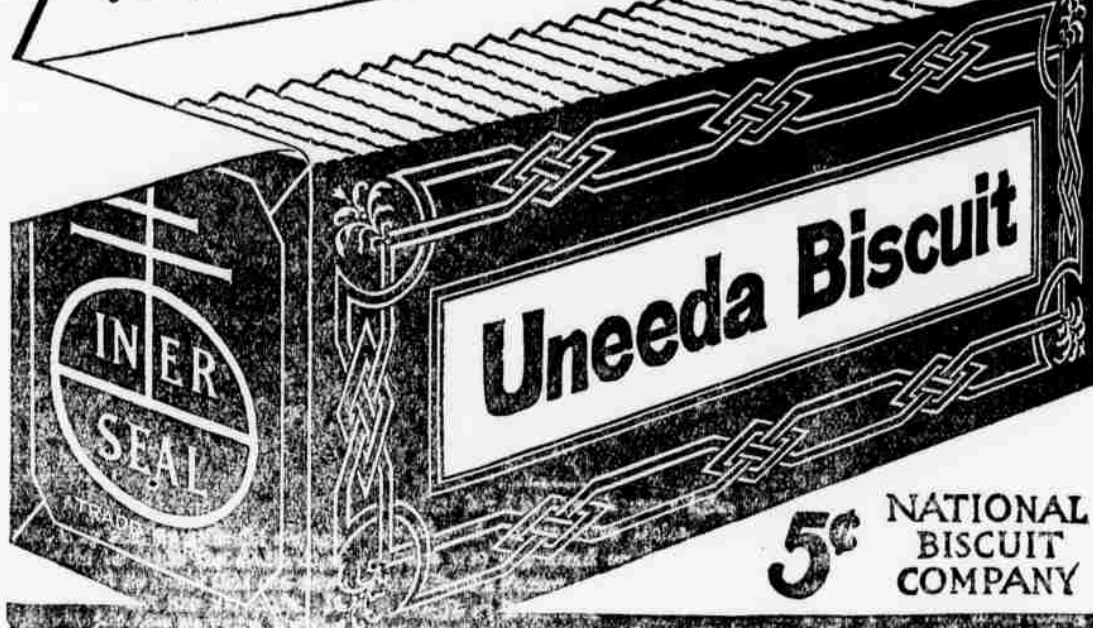
"I have traveled nearly 4,000 miles this summer," says Col. Shields, "have visited more than 50 towns in the Middle West and in the East, have walked more than 100 miles, and though I always look carefully for birds, have not seen a single bluebird this season. The bluebird is, perhaps, the most modest and most inoffensive of all our native songsters, and so it has retired more generally before the onslaughts of the British intruder than any other of our native birds, though all have been driven out to a greater or less extent."

"I recently sent out 50 letters, including self-addressed post cards, asking my correspondents whether they have seen any bluebirds, and, if so, how many. The cards have all been returned, and only six of the people have seen a single bluebird. Some of them report about the usual number, but the experience and observation of the others agree with my own. These 24 persons say they have not seen a single blue-bird."

"There are several important precedents for our proposed action against the sparrows. San Diego, Cal., started a war of extermination against them a year ago. It has been vigorously conducted, on about the same lines as we propose, and as a result most of the sparrows in that city have been killed and the others driven out. The California State University has cleaned its campus of them, and Meriden, Conn., has cleared most of them out. The California State Game and Fish Commission has inaugurated a State-wide war against the intruders."

"If one city the size of San Diego can kill the sparrows and drive them out, every town and city in the land can do it, and we believe that at least 90 per cent. of the people in this country will approve a war of extermination against this condemned nuisance, and that they will join heartily in it. But we must know first whether we are going to offend any considerable number of good people by such a crusade, before we begin it."—New York Times.

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PLANT CITY MAN REVIEWS CONTEST

And Shows Conclusively that W. V. Knott is the Nominee.

The Gainesville Sun of October 10th, Published the Following Letter From Mr. F. M. Prewitt of Plant City.

Editor Sun: After every move known to the legal profession had been invoked by counsel for Rev. Sidney J. Catts to wrest from Wm. V. Knott the nomination for Governor on the Democratic ticket, failed, the curtain was lowered by the hand of time at Tallahassee Saturday at midnight by the provision of law that says the Secretary of State shall, thirty days prior to the general election, certify to the respective boards of county commissioners the names of nominees for any and all officers to be voted for at such election.

Looking back over the long-drawn out controversy which, by virtue of the prejudices that the candidate from Alabama is credited with engendering, there is little to commend, but much to condemn. "A man convinced against his will is of the same opinion still," but any fair-minded person will admit that had Rev. Mr. Catts migrated to Florida and opened his campaign for Governor upon the same liberal, broad-minded and unselfish plane as did the four gentlemen whom he opposed before the primary, the vote accorded him would no doubt have been infinitely small. In those places where the five candidates spoke before the primary it did not take much of a scholar to observe that it was Catts against the field, therefore it was to be expected that Catts would lead on first choice votes when the primary was held. The Democratic National Platform contains this plank: "Whoever, by arousing prejudices of a racial, religious or other nature, creates discord and strife among our people so as to obstruct the wholesome process of unification, is faithless to the trust which the privileges of citizenship repose in him, and disloyal to his country." Which of the five candidates that sought the suffrage of Florida Democrats before the primary of June 6th does that plank in our National platform strike? Echo answers: "Sidney J. Catts."

When the time came for the State Canvassing Board to canvass the result as certified to that body, they performed their duty—purely perfunctory duty. The original returns from the several counties showed Rev. Catts to be the leader by 260 votes. Wm. V. Knott was apparently next to him, the votes accorded Messrs. Farris, Hudson and Wood being too low to be considered except as to show that in the aggregate a vast number of the people in reality had

no part in naming the party nominee.

There is one feature of the complicated primary law under which we have "fought, scratched and prayed" the past four years that commends it—the Legislature had the foresight to make its operation applicable to the general election law. The second choice feature was easy to vote, but very difficult to tabulate. However, the fact that the name of Rev. Catts came first on the ballot and first on the tally sheet made it very easy to call and tally, but no one who has studied the primary tally sheet will say otherwise than it was difficult, in the rush on the night after the primary, when anxiety was great as to the result of both State and county tickets, for the AVERAGE inspector to get the votes properly credited in the several criss-crossed columns which followed the column in which the votes for Rev. Catts were to be tallied. As to the certification of the aggregates on the original count, it was shown that Catts received 33,429, Knott 33,169, and 28,760 divided between Farris, Hudson and Wood as follows: Farris, 13,649; Hudson, 7,410, and Wood, 7,701. A blind man could see that it was possible—even probable—practically certain—that numerous mistakes had been made in the compilation of so many votes in so hurried a manner, and who was the man most interested to make a fight to ascertain if the wishes of the largest number participating in that primary had been established by the original count? Was it Farris, who received 13,649? No. Was it Wood, who received 7,701? No. Was it Hudson, who received 7,410? No. You hear some way, "Catts had a majority on the first count." Now, did he? Let's see: The original canvass by the State Board showed a total vote for the five gubernatorial candidates, counting the second choice votes which could be counted, of 95,358. What would constitute a majority of 95,358? It would be 47,680. Did Catts get that many? The first count showed Catts to have 33,429, or 14,251 less than a majority.

W. V. Knott was only 260 behind Rev. Catts, according to the original canvass, and with mistakes apparent all over the State, and Knott being the most popular second choice candidate by far, the first count figures showing him to lead Catts on second choice by 5,112, can any sane man blame him for asking the courts to order recounts with a view of finding out if he DID GET CREDIT FOR ALL THE VOTES CAST FOR HIM? Knott had that right under the law, and it is right that any man should get credit for EVERY VOTE THAT IS CAST FOR HIM.

What did Rev. Catts do when he learned that Mr. Knott, who had conducted a gentlemanly campaign, free from abuse of any man, was asking the courts to command inspectors in various counties to reassemble and recount the ballots to see if they had not made mistakes, through misunderstanding of the second choice feature? Did he sit down and await the result? Not by a jugful. He "covered the State again," making what he termed "a superfluous tour," and a great many sober-minded people agreed with him in that declaration. He cried "Thief" all over the State. In South Florida he told us they were literally stuffing the boxes in North and West Florida, and in those sections he told the people we were doing the same stunt down in this neck of the State. Of course, he added fuel to the fire he started on his previous rounds, when he told us that the Pope was on the way, materially, to gobble up the whole of us, and had some of our people pretty nearly scared to death. One poor old fellow down at Clearwater, a man who is partially deaf, after one of Rev. Catts' addresses there early in the spring, asked him after the speaking "what day he wanted the Protestants to get their guns and go out and kill off the Catholics?" Can you term that kind of enthusiasm anything less than religious prejudice?

When recounts were made, and in a few places, notably in Dade county, where Catts made net gains, did the candidate from Alabama cry "Thief!" We don't know. Ask him. Ask the inspectors who recounted in Clay, Duval, Holmes, Hamilton, Jackson, Leon, Nassau, Okaloosa, Orange, Polk, Putnam, St. Johns, St. Lucie, Santa Rosa, Sumter, Suwannee, Volusia, Clay, Marion, Hillsborough, Dade, Washington Palm Beach, and in our

CATTS WAS NEVER NOMINATED BY RANK AND FILE

Of the Democratic Party—W. V. Knott Shown to Have Larger Number of Votes.

To the Democrats of Florida:

This statement is prepared, printed and circulated by the Campaign Committee of the State Democratic Executive Committee of the State of Florida to the end that the voters may know the truth concerning the question which has been raised as to the party nominees. This committee is a sub-committee of the State Committee and was named to make every effort for the election of the Democratic ticket in this State.

The State Committee is not a self-constituted body. It was elected by the sovereign Democrats of the State to represent them in the councils of the party. It does not seek to perpetuate itself nor to usurp any authority not delegated to it. It has nothing to do with the selection of candidates; but on the contrary, is impartial in such matters and only seeks to elect to office those men selected by the rank and file of the party as the nominees.

In the present campaign bolters and others have been going up and down the land crying fraud and otherwise seeking to disrupt the Democratic party in Florida. There were five candidates in the primary for the office of Governor. The final count shows that the Hon. W. V. Knott has been nominated and this committee intends to make every honorable effort within its power to elect him on November 7 to the office of Governor. The records show that S. J. Catts never was the nominee of the party and that he became a bolter long before the contest for the nomination was concluded in the courts.

Of the five candidates, Messrs. Farris, Hudson and Wood, like the good Democrats that they are, bowed to the will of the majority when they found that they had not been chosen by the party to be the standard-bearer. S. J. Catts alone refused to abide by the result. He has criticised Mr. Knott for entering the courts to contest the nomination, and yet the first court proceeding was started by Mr. Catts in Alachua County.

Friends of Mr. Catts have made loud complaint because of the fact

on November 7th and make good their obligation by voting for the man who, by every expression and legal step known to our commonwealth, has been shown to be what the largest number wanted him to be—the party's nominee for Governor. It was not our duty to take sides while the nomination was in doubt, but now that the question has been settled, it is incumbent upon EVERY MAN WHO REGARDS A PARTY VOW TO BE BINDING to do what he can for the success of the Democratic ticket. We cannot ALWAYS have our choice, but if we go into a primary, knowing the act will obligate us to support its choice, we certainly can abide the result. F. M. PREWITT, Plant City, Fla., Oct. 9, 1916.

that he was not allowed to count 69 votes in Alachua. It is a principle of Florida law that no canvass can be had unless it is clearly shown that such canvass will change the results. This Mr. Catts failed to do. As a matter of fact, if the 69 votes Mr. Catts was entitled to in Alachua County had been counted he would not have been in the lead, because Mr. Knott had more than 69 votes certified to and in the hands of the State Canvassing Board at the same time. Had the returns been canvassed again, Mr. Knott would have increased his lead by 20 votes. Thus it is apparent to any reasonable man that there is nothing in the criticism of the Supreme Court for not allowing the counting of the 69 votes.

Long before the contest had been determined by the courts Mr. Catts bolted the Democratic party by having petitions certified to the various counties to have his name placed on the ballots as an independent. His supporters declare that this is nothing more than was done for the six Presidential Electors. Here again is seen a wonderful line of reasoning. In the case of the Presidential Electors three of them had failed to qualify, and the State Democratic Executive Committee selected three well known Democrats, viz: Judge M. H. Mabry, Judge W. H. Price and Hon. Frank Harris, and had their names placed upon the ticket by petition.

The question is quite different in the case of a candidate for Governor. The party is entitled to run but one candidate, and that candidate has been regularly nominated by the sovereign voters of the Democratic party to the person of the Honorable W. V. Knott. Any other candidate for that office must be an independent or the candidate of some other party.

The courts of this State were created by the Democratic party, the judges of these courts were elected by the same voters, and it is unreasonable to believe that they would, without exception, stultify themselves so far as to seek to be unjust to the party and the voters which created them and to whom they must look for their perpetuation.

The committee does not charge anyone with fraud, but holds that under the complicated primary law mistakes were easily made, and were made, as the recounts show.

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FUDGE INDICTED.

Florida Man Charged With Murder of Daughter.

The grand jury at Pensacola, Fla., has returned two indictments charging E. J. Fudge with the murder of his daughters, Tennie and Ethel, 14 and 11 years old, respectively. Fudge was arraigned and pleaded not guilty. The bodies of the girls were found in a deserted house in the outskirts several months ago. There was also a rifle in the cabin and a note indicating that the elder girl killed herself and sister rather than go to the poor-house.

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